

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 10077

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FROM AMB VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, APER, UN

SUBJ: PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENTS - UN GENEVA

REF: STATE 167413

SUMMARY: DURING MY MEETING WITH SYG WALDHEIM THIS AFTER-
NOON ON THE ERUPTION OF FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, I ALSO RAISED
THE QUESTION OF THE DNEPROVSKY APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF
PERSONNEL IN GENEVA. I USED THE OCCASION TO MAKE THE
POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. SYG INDICATED THAT IF
SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM REGARDING
THE ALLEGATIONS THAT DNEPROVSKY IS A MEMBER OF THE KGB HE
WOULD RECONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT AND MOST LIKELY WOULD
WITHDRAW IT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY CALL ON SYG WALDHEIM I RAISED DIRECTLY
OUR CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DNEPROVSKY
AS DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL IN GENEVA. IN RESPONSE, SYG
SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE
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INDIVIDUAL AND IN FACT WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEM OF
HIS APPOINTMENT UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN A COPY OF MY LETTER
TO MR. COTTAFI VUPON HIS ARRIVAL YESTERDAY (GENEVA 10076
HE ASKED GEORGE DAVIDSON (ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, UN
NEW YORK), TO BE PRESENT DURING THIS PART OF OUR MEETING.
I REVIEWED WITH HIM THE TALKING POINTS AS OUTLINED IN
REFTEL. I INDICATED THAT WE WERE NOT MAKING A PERSONAL

ATTACK AGAINST DNEPROVSKY, NOR WERE WE INTERESTED IN EMBARRASSING THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THERE WAS DEEP CONCERN THAT THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM OF THE UN WOULD HAVE MEMBERS OF THE KGB ASSIGNED IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. EVERYTHING THAT WAS SAID IN THIS MEETING WAS DONE WITH THE UTMOST TACT AND COURTESY, AND THE SYG RESPONDED IN A MOST FRIENDLY AND UNDERSTANDING WAY. I REFERRED TO HIS EXPERIENCE AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF AUSTRIA AS A POINT IN TIME WHEN HE WOULD HAVE GAINED INSIGHT INTO HOW THE KGB WORKED. GIVING AN IMPORTANT KGB AGENT ACCESS TO PERSONNEL FILES AND THE PRIVATE AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION SUCH FILES CONTAIN GIVES THE KGB EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECRUITMENT, ESPECIALLY OF THIRD WORLD INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESSURE AND BLACKMAIL. THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE NOW APPEARED IN THE PRESS CAN ONLY UNDERMINE DNEPROVSKY'S CREDIBILITY AND DAMAGE THE UN SYSTEM ITSELF.

3. DAVIDSON OUTLINED DNEPROVSKY'S CAREER AND STATED THAT MR. WEBB, AN AMERICAN, WAS DNEPROVSKY'S SUPERIOR IN NEW YORK AND AGREED TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF HIS APPOINTMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT, IN THE NINE YEARS OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE UN, DNEPROVSKY HAD AN UNBLEMISHED RECORD WHERE THE ONLY CRITICISM WAS OF HIS TOUGHNESS IN PERSONNEL MATTERS. I SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A DESCRIPTION WAS TOTALLY CONSISTENT
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WITH THAT OF A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENT AGENT, AND THAT, THEREFORE, THE CRUCIAL FACTOR WAS HIS TRUE IDENTITY RATHER THAN HIS EXEMPLARY RECORD AS PART OF THE PERSONNEL DIVISION. IF HE WERE TRULY SUCCESSFUL IN HIS KGB MISSION HE WOULD ALSO MAKE AN EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT TO BE UNCONTROVERSIAL IN THE DISCHARGE OF HIS REGULAR RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. SYG WALDHEIM LISTENED AND PARTICIPATED INTENTLY. HE TOLD ME THAT, IF THE UK OR THE US MADE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO HIM THAT SUPPORTED THE ALLEGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE KGB, HE WOULD MOST LIKELY CALL IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND TELL HIM THAT THE APPOINTMENT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE COULD NOT ACT AT THIS POINT ON THE BASIS OF UNSUBSTANTIATED PRESS REPORTS, THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND UPON FURTHER EVIDENCE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM. VANDEN HEUVEL

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